Filed Electronically January 26, 2009

| STATUS INQUIRY | Customer Number | 24353 |
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| | Atty. Docket No. | RICE-032 |
| | Application Number | 10/502,145 |
| Address to: Mail Stop Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | Confirmation Number | 8992 |
| | Filing Date | May 5, 2005 |
| | First Named Inventor | MACKAY, CHARLES REAY |
| | Examiner Name | VANDERVEGT, FRANCOIS P |
| | Group Art Unit | 1644 |

Sir:

A Response to Non-Final Rejection was filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on **July 7th, 2008** in the above-identified application. Since over **6** months have passed and no further communication has been received from the Patent and Trademark Office in response thereto, applicants respectfully request to be informed of the current status for this application.

Respectfully submitted,
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

| Date: | <u>January 26, 2009</u> | By: <u>/Carol L. Francis, Reg. No. 36513</u> | By: _ | / |
|-------|-------------------------|--|-------|---|
| | • | Carol L. Francis, Ph.D. | • – | |
| | | Registration No. 36.513 | | |

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